



Department of Public Health
Monroe County, New York

Cheryl Dinolfo
County Executive

Michael Mendoza, MD, MPH, MS
Commissioner of Public Health

March 25, 2019

Dear Parent/Staff Member:

I am writing to inform you that there was case of Pertussis (whooping cough) in the 9th grade at Brighton High School in Brighton, NY.

I am making the following recommendations to families whose children attend the school:

- If your child has a persistent cough now, or develops one in the next 3 weeks, he/she should be evaluated by a doctor so that the appropriate tests are performed and treatment is initiated, if needed.
- Adults (parents and staff) can contract Pertussis as well. If you develop cough symptoms contact your doctor to determine if you should be evaluated.

Pertussis most often occurs in infants and younger children who frequently acquire it from older siblings or adults who have a mild disease. While Pertussis most frequently occurs in unvaccinated or under-vaccinated children, it also occurs in school-age children and adults who have had the recommended Pertussis immunizations. Other persons at highest risk for severe Pertussis illness are infants less than 12 months, pregnant women, persons with moderate to severe asthma, and immunocompromised persons.

Vaccination is the most effective way of reducing Pertussis in our community. Please be sure that all your children are up-to-date with their Pertussis immunization. Adults can benefit from a Pertussis booster called Tdap (discuss with your doctor).

Please have your doctor contact the Monroe County Department of Public Health if he/she suspects that your child/staff member might have Pertussis. For more information, please see the attached Pertussis Fact sheet. If your doctor has any questions, please have them contact the Epidemiology & Disease Control Program at 753-5164, Monday – Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Mendoza".

Michael Mendoza, MD, MPH, MS
Commissioner of Public Health